

Bourbon County: Where I'm From

By Jennifer Hester Mattox

I am from winding creeks,
from limestone rock fences and lush rolling hills.
I am from front page news about the Sport of Kings
(Derby winners, grazing quietly,
for the Sheik, and for the Queen.)
I am from the birthplace of bourbon,
with one distillery since Prohibition
while the world's tallest three-story building
casts shadows on antebellum storefronts.

I'm from Paris but I'm not French,
from Robert Clark, William, and John.
I'm from the DAR who-are-yous
and the where's-your-family-froms,
from beer cheese, bourbon balls, and Derby pie.
I'm from high school sports as big news,
with Bourbon County Marching Band
ranking among the country's best.

I am from Kentucky pioneers and Clark's Run,
bullet-proof forts and family cemeteries.
From farms given 200 years ago as land grants
after the Revolutionary War,
first families building lives on Kentucky's woodland pasture.

My stone cottage rests atop the crest of a hill,
overlooking a home my ancestors built,
close to the town where they shopped
when Main Streets were busy.
I am from this history, these roots,
another generation in Bourbon County,
raising my family while our history lives on.

Where I'm From

I'm from the Bluegrass State

The rolling hills of Bourbon County

Fields of thoroughbreds and rusty old tobacco barns.

I'm from my love of photography

Capturing moments

At the click of the shutter.

I'm from the violin

The sweet sound of the strings

Singing the song of my heart.

I'm from countryside to busy city,

Two different worlds

A part of them both.

- Makenzi Sallee, Paris, Bourbon County

Where I'm From

By Leah Werking, Paris, Bourbon County

I am from a long line of Werking people
inequality
the fields of Hunan province
the bluegrass in Kentucky
my loving friends and family.

I am from the veils that cover my tarnished-golden heart
the illusions of reality
haunting spirits from my past
the balance of stubbornness
and the lack of worthiness.

I am from unknown titles
and the fear of failing
the enneagram four; with wings of three and five
the seeker of the unknown
a happy, imperfect person.

I am from music dancing through the air
art, created by multi-media
majestic horses galloping across their land
animals of all species
freshly grown watermelons growing on the vine to the juice dripping down my chin.

Delicious!

I am from the songs I sing, until I can sing no more
food I cook for my loved ones
vaulting swiftly on to barrels with friends
the precise movements in dressage
jitters of excitement--Show Time!

Shocks of energy coursing through my veins
I am from my beloved choir TeenSing
I am from laughter, friendship, and love
I am from Chinese, Spanish, and English
I am from Spring and Autumn.

Unconditional love.

Where I'm From

I am from wind, green grass, blue sky, and dirt

A black barn, rolling hills, and a white house

Sweat and determination.

Horses, vaulting, and farming

Tears, misunderstanding, happiness, and joy

I am of love, humor, and friendship

The shimmering creek in the field

Sports shirts, leggings, and riding breeches.

Horse hair, sticking to everything

The keyboard of the piano

I am of pens, papers, books, and homework

Apples, green beans, and corn

Saddles, saddle pads, girths, and stirrups.

The silent language of the animals

I am from Kentucky.

- Makayla Sallee, Paris, Bourbon County

Where I'm From

By Trinity Sallee, Paris, Bourbon County

I am from Winter near Christmas day.

cold and snow
Spring and April rain
Summer in backyard pool
Fall's leaf piles

I am from wind, sun, dirt, and water.

downhill sledding
swing set swinging
slide climbing and sliding
sandbox grit
trikes to bikes
one roller skate to two

I am from falling and diving, and getting back up.

I grew from the garden.

strawberry beds and cantaloupe vines
green bean snapping
five gallon buckets and canning jars

I am from the farm.

Jessie, Annie, Little Bear, and Jack
chickens and horses
eggs and hay
mother's home-made jams
organic honey on freshly baked bread

I am from Saturday nights and holiday dinners.

board games, card games,
imagination games and yard games
spaghetti and turkey,
corn pudding and custard

I am Kentucky.